

A PORTRAITURE of the CHURCH.

*The tabernacle in the sun (a), you see :
The pillar and the ground of truth (b), is she,
The spouse of Christ, Christ's church (c), and faith's abode;
Both house and steward (d) to the living God.
Pure as the sun (e), which thro' the lucid air
You may behold, fair as the moon (f), all fair :
Nor blemish, spot, nor wrinkle (g), doth she bring,
Nor any, any such, or such like thing.*

- (a) Psalm xix. 4.
Apoc. xii. 1.
- (b) 1 Tim. iii. 15.
- (c) 2 Cor. xi. 2.
John xiv. 16.
xvi. 13.
- (d) Tim. iii. 15.
Canticles vi. 7.
- (e) Canticles vi. 7.
- (f) Canticles iv. 7.
Ephesians v. 27.
- (g) Canticles vii. 9.

- (m) Apocalypse xii. 1.
- (n) Ifaia lx. 1.
- (o) Apocalypse xii. 1.
- (p) Ifaia lx. 2.



*Woman clothed with the Sun, & the Moon under her feet,
and upon her head a crown of twelve Stars. Apoc. xii. 1.*

*Interpreters of scripture, here fall down :
She wears the twelve apostles, as her crown (m) :
Submit all judgments unto her, as meet,
God's glory is upon her (n); and her feet
Do tread upon the lesser light (o) : fond men,
Why do ye say, she can be darkned? when
None shall be able, e'er to say, he saw
Her sun go down (p), or her fair moon withdraw :*

*Presented to her own, and heav'nly king.
One that can only make the lips of those
Who're fall'n asleep (h) to speak, tongues that oppose
Themselves against her, whoso'er they are,
As pris'ners they must stand before her bar.
Vain men ! Why question you so great a pow'r?
The world's her jointure, and the heav'ns her dow'r (i);
Infallible for ever (k) : how's she less,
Who's clothed with the sun of righteousness! (l)*

- (h) Ifaia liv. 17.
Ifaia vi. 20.
- (i) Apocalypse xxii. 17.
Matthew xviii. 20.
- (k) Ifaia lix. 21.
Ephesians v. 27.
- (l) Apocalypse xii. 1.

- (q) Ifaia lx. 15.
- (r) Ifaia lx. 19.
Ifaia lix. 21.
- (s) Apocalypse xii. 17.
- (t) Matthew xviii. 17.
- (u) Matthew xviii. 17.
- (x) 2 Peter iii. 16.
- (y) Matthew xvi. 19.

*But a perpetual excellence, she must be (q).
And lasting light unto eternity (r).
What then remains to satisfy all doubt,
But instantly to find this woman out (s)
That, we may hear her voice (t); and not defer;
T' appease all strife, by 'pealing unto her (u).
Christ is the door, scripture the lock (x); likewise,
The church the only key of paradise (y).*